

Historic School Bell Returns

WHILE IT'S NOT AS OLD or famous as the Liberty Bell, Chula Vista has now reclaimed its own historic bell.

Originally purchased for the community's first schoolhouse in the 1880s, it was placed in a large belfry on top of the two-story wooden structure.

When the school was demolished in 1916 the bell was acquired by the Community Congregational Church next door. The bell was moved again—this time to Pilgrim Pines camp in Northern California—when the church installed an electronic chime in the 1950s.

Chula Vista history buffs tracked down the bell at the camp in the 1980s. Following years of negotiations a perfect solution was reached: a new bell was purchased for the camp and Chula Vista's historic bell was returned "home."

Recently school children, seniors, elected officials and history



enthusiasts gathered for an unveiling of the bell at Norman Park Center—site of the original schoolhouse. The public can view the historic school bell in the foyer of the center, 270 F St., during regular hours. 🌸

Did You Know?

- Chula Vista has been selected as the site of a national energy center—the first of its kind in the United States. The City is teaming up with researchers, the U.S. Department of Energy and San Diego State University to create communities that are energy efficient.
- A new ordinance prohibits some registered sex offenders from moving within 500 feet of parks, elementary and middle schools in Chula Vista.
- Your shopping options at the EastLake Design Center keep growing. The latest additions include the Curtain Collection and Intellibed.
- Cats are "purr-fectly" happy with their remodeled digs at the Chula Vista Animal Care Facility. The new cattery is popular with people too—adoptions are up.

Village Walk at EastLake

TRADER JOE'S AND BORDER'S bookstore are just two of the new well-known retailers that will be opening next year in The Village Walk at EastLake, an upscale boutique-style commercial center. Construction is already underway, and the list of tenants is impressive. Look for several restaurants including the Brigantine, La Jolla Brewhouse and Broken Yolk. In addition, Joe



Busalacchi, one of the region's most high profile restaurateurs, will be opening his first Chula Vista location—Via Lago Trattoria.

Rounding out the 166,000 square foot center will be Petco, Pier 1, the Coffee Bean, and a new concept Henry's market. Shoppers will appreciate the elegance of the Tuscan architecture and enjoy all of the extra touches including rose gardens, fountains, art, and stone walkways. Developer Colton Sudbury promises the environment and the shopping experience will be "unlike anything you've seen around town." 🌸

Spring Flings

Taste of the Arts Don't miss the City's signature event on May 21! Enjoy a free family festival featuring a fantastic lineup of arts, live music and dance entertainment in beautiful Bayside Park. A Pops concert by San Diego Chamber Orchestra headlines the event. For a complete entertainment schedule and further details, check the City's website at www.chulavistaca.gov

Music in the Park Enjoy a free public concert series beginning June 4 and continuing through August 27 in various city parks.



All concerts will be held on Sunday afternoons from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. For more scheduling information, call the City's Office of Cultural Arts, (619) 585-5627.

Pet Fest and 2k Doggy Dash Run, walk or dash to a fun-filled festival for pet lovers in Memorial Park

on Saturday, June 24! The Doggy Dash kicks off at 8 a.m. where prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. Don't miss SNAP's Neuter Scooter bus, Chula Vista Police canine unit, pet contests, on-site adoptions, low cost clinics, a vendor village,



and plenty of fun for families and furry friends alike! All proceeds will benefit the Chula Vista Animal Care Facility.

For more information, call the Downtown Business Association, (619) 422-1982.

July Fourth Fireworks Celebrate the Fourth of July with a spectacular display of fireworks at the Chula Vista Marina at 9 p.m. Sponsored by the City's Department of Recreation. For more information, please call City of Chula Vista (619) 585-5682.

For more information about events taking place in Chula Vista throughout the year, call the City's special events hotline at (619) 585-5682; or visit the Calendar of Events page on the City's Web site at www.chulavistaca.gov. 🌸

CHULA VISTA SPOTLIGHT



City Council Stephen C. Padilla, Mayor
Patricia E. Chavez
John McCann
Jerry R. Rindone
Steve Castaneda

City Manager David D. Rowlands, Jr.

The Chula Vista Spotlight newsletter is published five times per year and is distributed as a public service to residents and businesses by the City of Chula Vista. Copies are also available at various locations around the city. Send comments or inquiries to the Office of Communications, City of Chula Vista, 276 Fourth Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910. The city's Web page address is www.chulavistaca.gov

Presorted Standard
US Postage
PAID
Chula Vista, CA
Permit No. 327

SPOTLIGHT

NEWS
for the
PEOPLE of
CHULA
VISTA



Play Ball

...AND SOCCER and tennis and badminton, and more! This spring, five new spectacular parks will open in Chula Vista. Three of them—Veterans, Monteville and Salt Creek—are large enough to include spacious, well-equipped recreation centers that offer a variety of fun programs for kids and adults. You're invited to participate in the grand openings coming up in May and June.

Most of the parks were built with funds collected from developer fees. The one exception is Harborside Park, the first new park built in western Chula Vista in more than 25 years. When Harborside was dedicated in late April, the community turned out to celebrate.

Please see **Play Ball**, inside

Spanning the Otay River

THE MOST DRAMATIC piece of the new 10-mile South Bay Expressway, is the towering bridge that crosses the Otay River. When it's completed, the bridge will span three-quarters of a mile—the length of 11 football fields—and reach a height of 18 stories. A remarkable engineering feat, the Otay River Bridge is being built in pre-cast segments that are trucked in from Perris, California and carefully lifted into place. There are 644 separate segments weighing up to 80 tons each. Because this segmental construction method allows the deck of the bridge to be assembled from above, it's an environmentally friendly way to build. As a result, the impact on the sensitive Otay River Valley floor below is minimal.

The bridge creates a new gateway from eastern Chula Vista to the Otay Mesa border crossing and Mexico. It's part of the toll road that connects two



South County highways—54 and 905. Construction should be completed early next year.

"When the South Bay Expressway opens in early 2007, commuters will enjoy a fast, reliable and scenic drive as they travel across the Otay River Bridge and take in the beautiful vistas and lush landscape of the Chula Vista countryside," said South Bay Expressway CEO Greg Hulsizer.

For more information on the Otay River Bridge and South Bay Expressway, check out www.southbay-expressway.com. 🍁

Opening on Third

AN INFUSION OF NEW BUSINESSES along Third Avenue is changing the landscape and boosting the interest level in the City's downtown corridor. Just look who's moved into the neighborhood.

- The Orphimage caters to the young crowd with a first-rate selection of skateboards and a unique line of sports clothing.
293 Third Avenue
- Mea Kwan Thai Cuisine opened last month next door to the Vogue Theater. The Thai restaurant has an extensive menu and is open for lunch and dinner.
230 Third Avenue

- El Primero Hotel is a beautifully restored boutique bed and breakfast. Recently, the family-owned and operated hotel was singled out for the City's Historic Preservation Award.
416 Third Avenue
- Celebrity Tattoo Art Studio claims well-known Hollywood types as clients. Owner Mike Kellerman opened Chula Vista's first tattoo studio in 1996.
295 Third Avenue

And coming soon: Mangia-Bene Ristorante Italiano—a popular family restaurant in the East County—opens its third location in Chula Vista.
248 Third Avenue 🍁

Around Town...

Sizing up Safety

A recent survey gave the Chula Vista Police Department high marks for performance and service. SANDAG, the San Diego Association of Governments, sent the survey to nearly 2,800 residents who were asked to rate police services and measure how safe they feel in their community. More than 31 percent of those surveyed responded. As in three previous surveys, the majority of residents—nine out of ten—reported being satisfied or very satisfied with the services of CVPD. The top three concerns for residents were speeding, aggressive driving, and running red lights. The CVPD intends to partner with other city departments to find ways to crackdown on reckless driving and make our streets safer for both motorists and pedestrians.



Light Bulb Exchange

You're invited to a Lighting Exchange Saturday, May 13 at the South Chula Vista Branch Library. Between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., Chula Vista residents can trade in old incandescent light bulbs and halogen torchere floor lamps for new energy-efficient models for free. Each household is limited to five incandescent bulbs (75 watts or higher) and two torchere floor lamps. To be eligible, you must present a valid California driver's license or ID, and a current SDG&E bill. The library is located at 389 Orange Avenue. For more information, call SDG&E at 1-800-411-7343.



Auto Park Revs Up for Additions

By summer's end, the Chula Vista Auto Park, will feature four new dealerships. Toyota/Scion is the Auto Park's first new tenant in almost ten years. Opening soon is McCune Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, South Bay Motorsports, and Payless Used Car Sales. There's room for more! The Auto Park, located on Main Street east of I-805, is big enough to accommodate three additional dealerships and several auto related businesses.



While you're driving by, check out the new Chula Vista Crossings Center that opened late last year. The center houses Kohl's Department Store, Pier 1 Imports, Babies 'R Us, PetSmart, Staples and Panda Express. Coming this summer—Souplantation.

CV Transit Improvements

Get ready for some welcome changes that will make taking the bus more convenient and enjoyable, no matter where you live in the city. The Otay Ranch Company is installing 14 new bus stop shelters and benches along East Palomar Street. All of the shelters are designed to blend in with the unique architecture of the surrounding communities. New solar-lighted shelters will be installed at Chula Vista's busiest bus stops. Most of the 41 new bus shelters will be located in the western part of the city. Work should be completed sometime early next year.



Bus passengers should be aware that the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) is preparing for significant changes to the Chula Vista Transit System, starting in September. While a few routes will be eliminated because of low ridership, other services will be improved. Buses will run every 15 minutes on Routes 701, 709 and 712. Route 712 will be extended to include Otay Ranch and Southwestern College. Additional direct connections to Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center will be added to the schedule. And buses will run more often along a revised and shortened Route 704. For more information about Chula Vista bus routes, go to sdcommute.com and click on COA.

Election Update

Don't forget to register by May 23 in order to cast your ballot in the upcoming election. Remember that voters who have changed their name or address are required to re-register. If you're unable to vote on Election Day, June 6, consider mailing in an absentee ballot or vote early in person by dropping by the Registrar of Voter's Office between May 31 and June 6. Absentee ballot applications are available at www.sdvote.com, the Registrar's Web site. 🍁

Festival Fun on May 21

JAZZ AND JEWELRY. Puppets and poetry. Beads and ballet. Paintings and photography. Broadway tunes and bronzes. Glass and Grammy Award winners.



Mark your calendar now to savor all of this and much more at Chula Vista's Taste of the Arts on Sunday, May 21! This free family festival starts at 10 a.m. and continues until 5:30 p.m. in beautiful Bayside Park.

Enjoy music and dance entertainment on three stages. Watch artists working with clay, paints and wood. Purchase one-of-a kind blown glass vases or unique jewelry as gifts and pick out a perfect work of art for home. Explore fun for the kids with hats, clay and pint-sized performances. Check the Web site at www.chulavistaca.gov for the entertainment schedule and list of participating artists. 🍁



Play Ball

continued from front page

It's a five-acre breath of fresh air for residents along Oxford Street—a place for family picnics, skateboarding or a game of basketball. Residents played a major role in helping city staff design the park and as a result, Harborside offers everything from picnic areas and monkey bars to an outdoor classroom for students at the nearby Harborside Elementary School.
670 Oxford Street

Dedication May 20

Veterans Park in Sunbow is a 12-acre site that boasts an ocean view from its Walk of Honor, a dedicated brick walkway that pays tribute to service members, police and firefighters—by name. Indoors, the large rec center facing Palomar Street, is the perfect place to take advantage of the popular Fun to be Fit classes offered by the City's Recreation Department. Outdoors, there's a softball and multi-purpose field—both lighted—and two basketball courts, a children's play area, picnic facilities and a dog park.
785 East Palomar Street (691-5260)

Dedication June 3

At 29 acres, Monteville Park is the largest of the city's new facilities and the first park in Chula Vista that offers universally accessible playground equipment. The equipment allows disabled children, even those in wheelchairs, to play alongside their friends. It's also one of the few places where dogs can run without being on a leash. The roomy recreation center has a large gym and several smaller

rooms that can accommodate a variety of activities. Outside, there are lighted sports fields, tennis courts and basketball courts, walking trails, picnic shelters and an area set aside for skateboarding.
840 Duncan Ranch Road (691-5269)

Dedication June 10

Salt Creek Park offers the city's first lighted arena soccer facility with artificial turf. Spend summer vacation at day camp playing basketball and volleyball or learning karate, yoga, ballet or photography. To emphasize Salt Creek's history as a farming area, the recreation center was built to look like a large barn with a silo attached. It houses a gym, a weight room and other facilities. Enjoy the large multi purpose fields, two lighted tennis courts, two lighted basketball courts, an outdoor speed soccer rink, children's play areas, picnic shelters, skate area and walking trails.
2710 Otay Lakes Road (585-5739)



One of the most scenic spots in the city is Mountain Hawk Park in EastLake Vistas, a neighborhood park that officially opens in June. Mountain Hawk overlooks Lower Otay Lakes and has spectacular views of the water and mountains. Visit and you'll see why it's the perfect spot for weddings and other special occasions.
1475 Lake Crest Drive 🍁